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LOUISIANA HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OFFICIAL SENTENCED

Guilty of committing perjury before a federal grand jury

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **DANIEL FALANGA**, age 54, of Folsom, Louisiana, was **sentenced to spend 6 months in prison** by U.S. District Judge S. Maurice Hicks, Jr.

FALANGA was found guilty by a federal jury in March of this year of one count of committing perjury before a federal grand jury. **FALANGA**, an employee of the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and formerly in charge of the State Mitigation Office, was indicted for testifying falsely before the grand jury after an audit was conducted regarding the use of federal funds for flood mitigation activities throughout Louisiana. **FALANGA's** false testimony concerned his access to a “repetitive loss list.” **FALANGA** testified before the grand jury that he did not have the repetitive loss list, nor did he have access to it during the relevant time period, which was false. The repetitive loss list is a listing of properties that have suffered two or more flood losses in a ten year period. The Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program is administered

by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is designed to fund mitigation projects to prevent future flood losses or flood claims made upon the National Flood Insurance Program.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Joseph G. Jarzabek and Alexander C. Van Hook.

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